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MENT ALSO FOR NEA/PAB, MS.
F.C. 12356: DECL: 10/19/92

E.C. 12388: DECL: 12/19/92
 TAGS: ASEC, MOPS, MCAP, PHUM, PINR, PINS, PROP, SREF, UR, AF

PAGE: ASEC, MOPS, MCAF, FROM, PINK, PINS, PROI, CREF, POK, POK
SUBJECT: AFGHANISTAN SITUATION REPORT: OCTOBER 13 - 19, 1986

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1. (C - ENTIRE TEXT)
2. EXCEPT WHERE INDICATED, THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION
MAY BE USED IN BRIEFING THE PRESS, PROTECTING SOURCES
AS NOTED.
3. SUMMARY: WESTERN JOURNALISTS AND OTHERS IN TOWN TO

COVER THE "WITHDRAWAL" OF SIX SOVIET REGIMENTS WERE KEPT UNDER TIGHT SECURITY AND ON A SHORT LEASE BY THEIR SOVIET/DRA HOSTS. JOURNALISTS WERE FLOWN TO SHINDAND AND KUNDUZ TO VIEW THE CEREMONIES. THE FORMER INCLUDED A PASS-IN-REVIEW BY SOME OLD AND NEWER MODEL TANKS AND INTERVIEWS WITH SOVIET TROOPS WHO HAD NEVER SEEN COMBAT. ON RETURNING FROM THE BASE TO KABUL, ONE OF THE SOVIET

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AIRCRAFT CARRYING THE JOURNALISTS REPORTEDLY NARROWLY MISSED BEING HIT BY A MISSILE. AT KUNDUZ JOURNALISTS NOTED THAT THE MOTORIZED RIFLE REGIMENT WITHDRAWN NUMBERED MORE TRUCKS THAN TRACKED VEHICLES, SUGGESTING A UNIT OF LOW READINESS OR POSSIBLY A FALSE UNIT. JOURNALISTS PARTICIPATED IN AN AIR DEFENSE REGIMENT WITHDRAWAL IN KABUL, RIDING ALONG BRIEFLY IN THE CONVOY. A SOVIET GENERAL ACCOMPANYING THE JOURNALISTS TOLD THEM THERE WERE 80 TO 90,000 SOVIET TROOPS IN AFGHANISTAN. IN THE FINAL DAY CEREMONIES IN KABUL BABRAK KARMAK MADE AN APPEARANCE WHICH DREW A WARM REACTION FROM THE CROWD. IN AN UNRELATED POLITICAL DEVELOPMENT THE MINISTER OF ISLAMIC AFFAIRS INEXPLICABLY HAS BEEN REPLACED. ON OCTOBER 19 A SOVIET AIRCRAFT CRASHED NEAR THE KABUL AIRPORT, ALLEGEDLY BECAUSE OF A "TECHNICAL FAULT." FINALLY, REPORTS SUGGEST WEAK SECURITY AND POOR

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LIVING CONDITIONS IN MEYMANEE, GARDEZ AND GHAZNI. IN PACHMAN, THE DRA MILITARY ESTABLISHED 30 POSTS IN A BID TO FIRM-UP CONTROL THERE BUT MUJAHIDIN UNITS CONTINUE TO OPERATE. RECENT MUJAHIDIN ATTACKS IN FEYZABAD AND JALDAK REPORTEDLY RESULTED IN HEAVY

CASUALTIES. END SUMMARY.

4. KABUL PYROTECHNICS:

-- 13 OCTOBER: DURING THE AFTERNOON [REDACTED] PLAINCLOTHES SOVIET PERSONNEL COORDINATING AFGHAN CIVILIAN/MILITARY SECURITY UNITS ALONG THE STREET IN ADVANCE OF THE ARRIVAL OF THE INTERNATIONAL JOURNALISTS CONTINGENT TO COVER THE "WITHDRAWAL" OF SIX SOVIET REGIMENTS. AT 2210 [REDACTED] TWO EXPLOSIONS, PROBABLY INCOMING ROCKETS, IMPACTING NEAR THE AIRPORT. BEGINNING AT 2230 AND CONTINUING UNTIL 2310, THERE WAS OUTGOING ARTILLERY ORIGINATING FROM BATTERIES NEAR THE AIRPORT. [REDACTED] TEN TO TWELVE EXPLOSIONS IN THE DARULAMAN AREA DURING THE PERIOD 2215 TO 2300. (C)(1) (C)(5)

-- 14 OCTOBER: BETWEEN 2625 AND 2712 [REDACTED] RANDOM OUTGOING ARTILLERY FROM THE AIRPORT. DURING THE LATE AFTERNOON SEVERAL DIPLOMATS REPORT HEARING A LARGE EXPLOSION (ONE ACCOUNT DESCRIBES TWO EXPLOSIONS) IN THE SHARF NAU AREA, POSSIBLY INCOMING ROCKETS. AT 2155 AND AT 2205 THERE WERE EXPLOSIONS IN THE AREA OF THE AIRPORT. (C)(1) (C)(5)

-- 15 OCTOBER: SHORTLY AFTER DAWN AND CONTINUING UNTIL 0730, WHAT APPEARED TO BE MULTIPLE, TUBE-LAUNCH PARACHUTE FLARES WERE OBSERVED OVER SOUTHEASTERN AND NORTHEASTERN KABUL.

(COMMENT: [REDACTED])

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END COMMENT.)

AT 2215 DIPLOMATS HEARD TWO EXPLOSIONS IN THE DARULAMAN AREA, POSSIBLY THE RESULT OF INCOMING ROCKETS.

-- 16 OCTOBER: A ROCKET FELL INTO THE BAGH-E-BALA AREA (NORTHWESTERN KABUL) DURING

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THE EVENING.

-- 17 OCTOBER: DURING THE AFTERNOON (AS VISITING JOURNALISTS WERE RETURNING FROM KUNDUZ), MULTIPLE PARACHUTE FLARES WERE NOTED IN THE SKIES OVER NORTHWESTERN

KABUL (NOTE ENTRY FOR 15 OCTOBER FOR POSSIBLE PURPOSE OF THESE FLARES).

THAT AT APPROXIMATELY MIDNIGHT FOUR ROCKETS LAUNCHED FROM PASHMAN IMPACTED NEAR THE KHARGA ROAD.

-- 18 OCTOBER: AT 2150 AND 2205, SMALL ARMS FIRE IN THE MICRORAYON AREA.

-- 19 OCTOBER: AT 1450 THERE WERE TWO EXPLOSIONS IN PASHMAN VISIBLE FROM KABUL. AT 1510 THERE

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WERE THREE LARGE EXPLOSIONS IN THE DARULAMAN AREA, POSSIBLY THE RESULT OF ARTILLERY PRACTICE.

5. MILITARY MOVEMENT IN THE KABUL AREA:

(A) (AIR): DURING THE WEEK, VISITING JOURNALISTS

TRAVELLING ABOARD AN-26'S WERE ESCORTED UPON TAKEOFF AND ON LANDING BY FOUR MI-24'S DISPENSING FLARES. ASIDE FROM MOVEMENT OF JOURNALISTS, AIR ACTIVITY FROM KABUL AIRPORT, PARTICULARLY MILITARY AIR MOVEMENT, WAS MARKEDLY REDUCED DURING THE WEEK.

-- 14 OCTOBER: AT APPROXIMATELY 2900, [REDACTED] SIX SOVIET MEDICAL HELICOPTERS STAGING FOR LIFT OFF FROM KABUL AIRPORT. AT ABOUT THE SAME TIME, FOUR AN-21(A)'S (L)(1) (WITH TAILGUNNERS) DEPARTED. (C)(5)

-- 15 OCTOBER: AT 1520 [REDACTED] APPROXIMATELY TEN HELICOPTERS HEADING INTO KABUL FROM THE DIRECTION OF LOGAR.

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-- 16 OCTOBER: AT 1530, FIVE MI-3'S WERE SEEN HEADING WEST.

-- 19 OCTOBER: AT APPROXIMATELY 1115, ACCORDING TO [REDACTED] AN AIRCRAFT (PROBABLY A HELICOPTER) CRASHED NEAR KABUL AIRFIELD. [REDACTED] CLAIM THE CRASH WAS DUE TO TECHNICAL REASONS. THE

AIRCRAFT WAS SEEN AFLAME IN MID-AIR. THE PILOT PARACHUTED SAFELY INTO THE MICRORAYON AREA BUT THE PLANE CRASHED NEAR THE CUSTOMS HOUSE, EXPLODING AND BREAKING INTO TWO SECTIONS. ACCORDING TO ONE SOURCE, A RECTANGULAR OBJECT WAS SEEN TO PARACHUTE SEPARATELY. IT WAS RAPIDLY RETRIEVED BY SOVIET MILITARY PERSONNEL.

(B) (VEHICULAR):

-- 12 OCTOBER: AT 1700, [REDACTED] AN AFGHAN CONVOY APPARENTLY HEADING TOWARD THE LOGAR ROAD. THE CONVOY CONSISTED OF SEVENTEEN TRUCKS, THREE OF WHICH WERE ARMED WITH ZPU GUNS, AND AN UNKNOWN NUMBER OF BTR'S. SOME OF THE TRUCKS CARRIED LIVESTOCK WHILE FOUR OTHERS HAD 122MM GUNS IN TOW. (L)(1) (C)(5)

-- 13 OCTOBER: A SOVIET CONVOY COMPRISING FOUR BMP-2'S, TWO BMP'S, THREE BTR'S AND TWO TRUCKS LEFT THE PALACE AREA AT 1700 AND DEPARTED SOUTH ON THE LOGAR ROAD. (L)(1)

-- 15 OCTOBER: [REDACTED] A SOVIET CONVOY RETURNING TO KABUL FROM LOGAR. THE CONVOY INCLUDED FOURTEEN BMD'S, EIGHT BMP'S, SIX BTR'S AND SIX COVERED TRUCKS. (C)(5)

-- 17 OCTOBER: AT 1130 [REDACTED] APPROXIMATELY FIFTY COVERED TRUCKS PARKED FACING NORTH ON THE SALANG HIGHWAY. IN THE EARLY AFTERNOON [REDACTED] A TRUCK (L)(1) (C)(5)

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CONVOY CONSISTING OF OVER TWENTY-FOUR 18-WHEEL COVERED TRUCKS ACCOMPANIED BY BTR'S AND TRACKED VEHICLES ENTERING THE CITY FROM THE LOGAR ROAD. AT 1500, A CONVOY OF SOVIET ARMOR APPARENTLY RETURNING FROM LOGAR.

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WAS SEEN HEADED NORTHWEST (TOWARD CANTONMENT) CN BLUE

MOSCOW STREET. THE 30-PLUS VEHICLE CONVOY INCLUDED

BTB'S, BRDM'S, BMP'S, BMD'S AND THREE OT-62C VEHICLES

(THE LATTER MARKED WITH AIRBORNE SYMBOLS). AT 1715

TWENTY-FIVE LARGE TRUCKS ESCORTED BY BTR'S

MOVING FROM THE SALANG ROAD CN TO THE PERIMETER ROAD.

MOST OF THE TRUCKS APPEARED TO BE CARRYING COAL.

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-- 18 OCTOBER: AN AFGHAN SOURCE REPORTS A ROCKET
IMPACTED IN THE TAIMANI AREA (NORTHERN KABUL) DURING
THE EVENING.

-- 19 OCTOBER: AN AIR DEFENSE REGIMENT, WITHDRAWING

FROM AFGHANISTAN, PARADED THROUGH KABUL AT MID-DAY. (SEE
PARA 13D FOR DETAILS OF ITS COMPOSITION.) AT 1600 [REDACTED]

PARA 100 A CONVOY OF FOURTEEN TRUCKS CARRYING
CONSTRUCTION MATERIALS MOVING SOUTH ON DARULAMAN ROAD.

THAT SECURITY APPEARS TO HAVE BEEN
TIGHTENED AT THE SOVIET EMBASSY WITH ARMORED PERSONNEL
CARRIERS PARKED INSIDE THE EMBASSY COMPOUND NEAR THE
ENTRANCE AND ONE ON THE NORTH SIDE OF THE COMPOUND. A

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(2K1)
(CNS)

REPORTS CONDITIONS IN THE PROVINCE CAPITAL AND ELSEWHERE IN THE PROVINCE ARE BLEAK. APPROXIMATELY 40 PERCENT OF THE PEOPLE IN THE CAPITAL HAVE FLED, MOSTLY TO KABUL. THERE IS A MONTH-LONG WAIT FOR AIR TICKETS TO KABUL THOUGH THEY CAN BE HAD ON THE BLACKMARKET IN TWO OR THREE DAYS AT A 300 PERCENT MARK-UP. AS OF EARLY OCTOBER, A SIR OF WHEAT (7 KGS) COST BETWEEN 400 AND 500 AFGHANIS (UP FROM 350 REPORTED LESS THAN A MONTH

(4)(1)
(5)(5)

PITAL STAFF, IS VERY POOR. MEDICINES ARE SCARCE AND EXPENSIVE. MUJAHIDIN OPERATE RELATIVELY OPENLY IN THE CITY IN THE EVENINGS AND CONTROL MOST OF THE COUNTRYSIDE. MUJAHIDIN INTERDICT ROAD TRAFFIC TO AND FROM MEYMANEH WITH IMPUNITY.

THE MUJAHIDIN WERE ACTIVE WITHIN THE CITY AT NIGHT. ON OCTOBER 10 MUJAHIDIN-PLANTED MINES DESTROYED AN ARMORED VEHICLE AND A JEEP WITH THE CITY.

(a)(5)

FOUR OF THE CITY'S PRINCIPAL BAZAARS ARE UNDER MUJAHIDIN CONTROL. A [REDACTED] THAT MUCH OF THE OLD CITY HAS BEEN DESTROYED IN STREET FIGHTING AND BY SOVIET ARTILLERY/BOMBING.

ATTEMPTED TO CLEAR THE ROAD BETWEEN GARDEZ AND SATO KANDAW PASS (33° 29' N 69° 22' E) BUT FAILED. A RECENT VISITOR TO GARDEZ CLAIMS THAT BECAUSE OF INCREASED FIGHTING IN THE AREA, THERE HAD BEEN A SURGE IN REFUGEE FLOW TO PAKISTAN FROM THERE. [REDACTED] NEAR KHOWST THE MUJAHIDIN ARE ABLE TO OPERATE WITHOUT DIFFICULTY EXCEPT FOR THE URBAN KHOWST AREA. A SEPARATE

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DIPLOMAT REPORTED CLAIMS OF HEAVY FIGHTING IN THE PROVINCE,
OCTOBER 4. MUJAHIDIN UNITS REPORTEDLY DESTROYED ONE
ARMORED VEHICLE, ONE HELICOPTER AND SEVERAL JEEPS.

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12. ZABOL: AN AFGHEAN SOURCE REPORTS THAT ON

ABOUT OCTOBER 7 THERE WAS INTENSE MUJAHIDIN-DRA
FIGHTING IN THE AREA OF JALDAK (31° 53' N 66° 43' E)
ON THE KANDAHAR ROAD. MUJAHIDIN CASUALTIES WERE REPORTED
AS LESS THAN TEN WHILE DRA KILLED AND WOUNDED NUMBERED
65. MUJAHIDIN FORCES IN THE AREA ARE LED BY A MEMBER

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OF THE NABI GROUP NAMED GRANI (PHONETIC).

11. (A) KABUL PROVINCE: (KEARGA, PAGHMAN, KABUL CITY):

IN KEARGA, ON THE MORNING OF OCTOBER 17,

THREE HELICOPTERS CONDUCTING STRIKES AGAINST A
RANGE OF HILLS JUST NORTH OF THE LAKE.

RANGE OF HILLS 3000 FEET. SUMMARY OF CURRENT FIGHTING IN THE PAGHMAN AREA: FIGHTING NOW CENTERS NEAR THREE PAGHMAN VILLAGES: FASHAI PAGHMAN (POSSIBLY A VILLAGE FIVE KMS SOUTHWEST OF PAGHMAN CITY); CHISHM-E-BULBUL (UNLOCATED) AND HUZ-E-MUSSAFAH (ALSO UNLOCATED). (NOT TO BE BRIEFED TO PRESS: MUJAEIDIN STRENGTH IS NOW

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CONCENTRATED IN JALEZ-MAIDAN AREA, UNLOCATED.) FROM THIS POINT THE MUJAHIDIN CURRENTLY ARE DISPATCHING TEAMS OF 20 MEN TO CONDUCT OPERATIONS THROUGHOUT THE PAGHMAN AREA.

[REDACTED] THAT IN RECENT MONTHS REGIME MILITARY FORCES HAVE ESTABLISHED APPROXIMATELY THIRTY BASES IN THE PAGHMAN HILLS, IN AN APPARENT BID TO HOLD THIS TERRITORY OVER THE WINTER MONTHS.

[REDACTED] THAT OVER THIRTY-FIVE SOVIETS HAVE BEEN TAKEN PRISONER IN THE PAST TWO MONTHS OF PAGHMAN RELATED HOSTILITIES. ALSO IN THE PAGHMAN AREA ON OCTOBER 17, [REDACTED] APPROXIMATELY 300 AFGHAN SOLDIERS APPARENTLY MOVING FROM A BASE AREA ON THE KHARGA ROAD NEAR THE 8TH DIVISION HEADQUARTERS WESTWARD INTO PAGHMAN. THE APPROXIMATELY TWENTY-TRUCK CONVOY INCLUDED TOWED GUNS (122MM) AND SEVERAL TRUCKS OF FURNITURE.

[REDACTED] THAT HOUSE SEARCHES WERE CONDUCTED IN SOUTHERN KABUL NEAR THE JANGLAK FACTORY DURING THE EVENING OF 16-17 OCTOBER.

(B) KABUL PROVINCE (SHOMALI): [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] IN THE SHAKA DARA AREA DURING THE SECOND WEEK OF OCTOBER, NINE DRA AND SOVIET VEHICLES WERE DESTROYED BY MINES; IN FARZA VILLAGE (5 KM SOUTHWEST OF ESTALEF), THIRTY PERSONS WERE KILLED IN A SOVIET ARTILLERY BARRAGE OCTOBER 14.

12. BADAKHSHAN: [REDACTED] IN EARLY

OCTOBER MUJAHIDIN UNITS ATTACKED THE TELEVISION STATION IN THE CAPITAL OF FEYZABAD, DESTROYING MUCH EQUIPMENT AND KILLING AFGHAN AND SOVIET PERSONNEL. AS A RESULT, SOVIET PLANES CARRIED OUT HEAVY BOMBING IN THE AREA FOR ONE WEEK. IN THE BOMBING, MUJAHIDIN UNITS REPORTEDLY KNOCKED DOWN THREE AIRCRAFT.

13. THE "WITHDRAWAL" OF SOVIET REGIMENTS:

(A) ATMOSPHERICS: MOST OF THE APPROXIMATELY 140 INTER-

NATIONAL JOURNALISTS (INCLUDING APPROXIMATELY 41 WESTERN JOURNALISTS) WHO CAME TO OBSERVE THE WITHDRAWAL OF SIX SOVIET REGIMENTS ARRIVED IN KABUL OCTOBER 13 AND DEPARTED OCTOBER 19. (FRG, JAPANESE AND DANISH JOURNALISTS ARRIVED EARLIER AND A FEW WESTERN JOURNALISTS REPORTEDLY WILL REMAIN IN KABUL FOR SEVERAL MORE DAYS.) DURING THEIR STAY, THE JOURNALISTS, TRAVELLING ABOARD AN-26'S, VISITED SHINDAND AND KUNDUZ TO WATCH WITHDRAWALS OF A TANK AND AN MRR REGIMENT RESPECTIVELY. IN KABUL THEY BRIEFLY JOINED A DEPARTING AIR DEFENSE REGIMENT WHICH PARADED THROUGH THE CAPITAL OCTOBER 19. THE VISIT WAS MARKED BY

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VERY TIGHT SECURITY, INCLUDING CAREFULLY GUARDED MOTORCADE ROUTES (WHICH PRODUCED MAJOR TRAFFIC SNARLS). THE CITY WAS FESTICORNED WITH NUMEROUS BANNERS AND POSTERS IN DARI.

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RUSSIAN AND ENGLISH. MOST WERE BOILERPLATE PROPAGANDA.

BUT ONE IN THE DOWNTOWN AREA CALLED FOR "DEATH TO BLOODSUCKING

AMERICAN IMPERIALISM. IN KARTE SEH AND KARTE GEAR AREAS OF THE

CITY. MANY POSTERS AND BANNERS WERE TAKEN DOWN AT NIGHT.

APPARENTLY BY MUJAHIDIN SYMPATHIZERS. AT TIMES RELATIONS

BETWEEN THE JOURNALISTS AND THEIR DRA/SOVIET HOSTS WERE

LESS THAN CORDIAL AS WESTERN JOURNALISTS GHAFFED AT DRA/

LESS THAN 50
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SOVIET ATTEMPTS TO KEEP THEM ON A SHORT LEASH. SOME FRENCH

SOVIET ATTEMPTS TO KEEP THEM ON A SHORT LEASH. SOME JOURNALISTS REPORTEDLY CAME CLOSE TO BLOWS WITH THEIR

HOSTS WHEN TOLD THEY COULD NOT VISIT THEIR EMBASSY.

AMERICAN AND AUSTRIAN JOURNALISTS WERE SPECIFICALLY

WARNED BY GUIDES ABOUT THE DANGERS OF WANDERING ABOUT

KAFUL UNESCORTED. WESTERN CHIEFS OF MISSION AND OTHER

DIPLOMATS EXPERIENCED DIFFICULTIES IN TRYING TO CONTACT

DIplomats experienced difficulties in trying to control
their fellow nationals who were cordoned off at the hotel.

TEHRAN FELLOW NATIONALS WHO WERE CORDED OFF AT THE
INTERCON. JOURNALISTS PARTICIPATED IN A SERIES OF

INTERVIEW. JOURNALISTS PARTICIPATED IN A SERIES OF
DRA/SOVIET PRESS INTERVIEWS WHICH PRODUCED LITTLE NEWS.

DRAY/ SOVIET PRESS INTERVIEWS WHICH PRODUCED SEVERAL NEWS
INCLUDING A FINAL ONE ON THE EVENING OF OCTOBER 18 WITH

INCLUDING A FINAL ONE ON THE EVENING OF OCTOBER 15
2JJB WHO READ RESPONSES TO WRITTEN QUESTIONS FROM A

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PREPARED TEXT. AT HIS ELBOW A SOVIET FOLLOWED HIM CAREFULLY FROM HIS OWN TEXT. WHILE IN KABUL, A SOVIET GENERAL NAMED MIKHAIL BOGDANOV, WHO HAD JOINED THE JOURNALISTS IN MOSCOW, IN RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS FROM JOURNALISTS SAID THERE WERE BETWEEN "82 AND 90,000" SOVIET TROOPS IN AFGHANISTAN.

(E) AT SHINDAND: JOURNALISTS WERE FLOWN TO SHINDAND

BY A CIRCUITOUS SOUTHERN ROUTE, APPARENTLY TO AVOID OVERFLYING THE HAZARAJAT, THE CENTRAL PORTION OF AFGHANISTAN WHICH IS UNDER MUJAHIDIN CONTROL. AT SHINDAND JOURNALISTS WERE JOINED BY GENERAL SECRETARY NAJIB, PRIME MINISTER KESHTMAND AND SOVIET AMBASSADOR MOZHAEV AND SAW A TOTAL OF 94 TANKS (GUIDES IDENTIFIED THEM AS T-55'S AND T-54'S THOUGH KABUL TELEVISION SHOWED ONLY T-52'S) AND OTHER VEHICLES. SOVIET SOLDIERS PRESENTED FOR INTERVIEWS PROFESSED NEVER TO HAVE SEEN COMBAT NOR FOR THAT MATTER TO HAVE SEEN ANY MUJAHIDIN DURING THEIR TOURS IN AFGHANISTAN. JOURNALISTS TOLD US THAT MANY OF THE TROOPS APPEARED TO BE CENTRAL ASIAN AND VERY YOUNG. APPARENTLY BECAUSE

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OF A DELAYED DEPARTURE THE RETURN TRIP TO KABUL TOOK A MORE DIRECT ROUTING OVER THE HAZARAJAT. A SOVIET REPORTEDLY TOLD AN FRG JOURNALIST THAT DURING THE FLIGHT, THE FIFTH AN-26 IN THE GROUP NARROWLY MISSED BEING HIT BY A MISSILE. SEPARATELY JOURNALISTS REPORT THAT ABOARD ONE OF THE AIRCRAFT ABOUT TWO THIRDS OF THE WAY THROUGH THE JOURNEY PASSENGERS WERE INSTRUCTED TO DRAW THEIR WINDOW SHADES AND THE PLANE'S LIGHTS WERE CUT. ONE JOURNALIST WHO PEEPED OUT NOTED THAT THE PLANE WAS DISPENSING FLARES (PRESUMABLY TO WARD OFF HEAT-SEEKING MISSILES).

(C) AT KUNDUZ: JOURNALISTS ARRIVED AT KUNDUZ OCTOBER 17

AMIDST TIGHT SECURITY TO OBSERVE THE WITDRAWAL. NAJIB WAS AGAIN ON HAND FOR THE CEREMONIES WHICH INCLUDED A PARTIAL PASS-IN-REVIEW. JOURNALISTS TOLD US THAT MOST OF THE VEHICLES WERE TRUCKS AND NOT TRACKED VEHICLES, SUGGESTING THAT THE UNIT WAS IN A LOW STATE OF READINESS OR CONCEIVABLY, THAT IT WAS A FALSE UNIT.

(D) IN KABUL: JOURNALISTS JOINED A DEPARTING AIR DEFENSE

REGIMENT BRIEFLY AS IT PARADED THROUGH KABUL TOWARD THE SALANG ROAD. THE 45-MINUTE CONVOY CONSISTED OF 42 ARMORED PERSONNEL CARRIERS (BTR 50'S AND BTR 70'S) AND A LARGE NUMBER OF FUEL, COMMO AND OTHER TRUCKS. THE TOPS OF APPROXIMATELY TWO-THIRDS OF THE TEL'S HAD LARGE CANVAS-COVERED BULGES (PRESUMABLY SAM-8'S AND ASSOCIATED RADAR) WHILE ONE-THIRD HAD LOW (THREE-FOOT) CANVAS-COVERED RECTANGULAR BLOCKS. VEHICLES ALL APPEARED NEW

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AND SHOWED LITTLE SIGN OF WEAR. AFGHAN ONLOOKERS WERE

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FM AMEMBASSY KAEUL

TO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI IMMEDIATE

SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5587

INFO AFGHAN WAR COLLECTIVE

INFO RIGURN WRR
USIA WASHDC 1412

AMEMBASSY COLOMBO

USCINCEUR VAHINGEN GE

ET FRAGG NC AFVS//POE//SE

CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

CINCUSAREUR HEIDELBERG GE

HC USAFF RAMSTEIN AB GE

EQ USAFE RAMSTEIN AB GE
FO USAFE RAMSTEIN AB GE//INCO//

USNMR SEAPE BE//INTAF//

USCENTCOM MACDILL AFB FL//CCJ2-10M//

DEFENSE COMMUNICATION SUPPORT GROUP

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FATHER TEAM WAVED THEM. AFGHAN SOURCES HAVE TOLD

RAATHER FEAR WAVED THEM. RUSSIAN SOURCES HAVE TOLD WESTERN DIPLOMATS OF BEING SIMILARLY ROUNDED UP IN THE

WESTERN DIPLOMATS OF BEING SIMPLY RECORDED IN THE
STREETS AND TAKEN TO MOSQUES SO THAT JOURNALISTS COULD

STREETS AND TAKEN TO MOSQUES SO THAT JOURNALISTS COULD
SEE "FULL MOSQUES" ON FRIDAY, OCTOBER 17 (THE MUSLIM HOLY

SEE
DAY).

14. POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS:

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(A) A WESTERN DIPLOMAT OBSERVING THE DEPARTING AIR DEFENSE REGIMENT CONVOY THROUGH KABUL OCTOBER 19 NOTED IN THE MIDDLE OF THE CONVOY A BLACK LIMOUSINE WHICH APPEARED TO BE CARRYING DRA PRESIDENT BABRAK KARMAL (OUT OF PUBLIC VIEW FOR MANY WEEKS). KABUL RESIDENTS WHO

SULLENLY LINED THE CONVOY'S ROUTE OF MARCH ERUPTED IN SPONTANEOUS APPLAUSE AT THE SIGHT OF KARMAL WHO WAVED IN RESPONSE. EARLIER, ACCORDING TO A DIPLOMAT, IN CEREMONIES PRECEDING THE DEPARTURE OF THE REGIMENT, KARMAL'S APPEARANCE ON THE ROSTRUM DREW AN EXCITED RESPONSE FROM THE CROWD WHICH CHANTED HIS NAME. KARMAL WAS ALSO SEEN BRIEFLY IN TELEVISION COVERAGE OF THE CEREMONIES -

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WELL AWAY FROM THE ROSTRUM CENTER POSITION, OCCUPIED BY NAJIB. SEPARATELY, A SENIOR BLOC DIPLOMAT CLAIMED THAT KARMAL RECENTLY WAS OFFERED THE POST OF AMBASSADOR IN WARSAW BUT REFUSED IT.

(E) IN AN UNEXPLAINED DEVELOPMENT, A NEW MINISTER OF ISLAMIC AFFAIRS WAS ANNOUNCED OCTOBER 17. HE IS ABDUL JAMIL ZAREFI, GENERALLY REGARDED AS A NON-PARTY FIGURE. THE OUTGOING MINISTER, ABDUL WALI HUDJAT, HAS BEEN APPOINTED AS A DEPUTY OF THE SUPREME COURT.

APPOINT ZAREFI MAY HAVE BEEN FORMALIZED AT THIS SESSION DESPITE THE ABSENCE OF PRIME MINISTER KESHTMAND, AT SHINDAND AT THE TIME.

(C) AN AFGHAN SOURCE HAS TOLD US THAT ON OCTOBER 15 THERE WAS A ROUND-UP OF SOME KHAD OFFICIALS WHO WERE TAKEN TO

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AN UNKNOWN DESTINATION FOR "QUESTIONING." AS OF OCTOBER 19,
THE GROUP HAD NOT RETURNED. IT IS NOT KNOWN IF THIS ACTION
WAS LOCAL OR MORE WIDESPREAD. IN A SEPARATE BUT POSSIBLY
RELATED DEVELOPMENT, DIPLOMATS NOTED THAT THE KHAD BUILDING

LOCATED OPPOSITE THE U.S. EMBASSY, WHICH IN THE PAST HAS BEEN MANNED BY PLAINCLOTHES (KHAD) OFFICIALS. AS OF OCTOBER 13 WAS MANNED BY UNIFORMED PERSONNEL (EITHER DRA MILITARY OR SARANDOI). FINALLY A SENIOR NON-WESTERN DIPLOMAT STATED THAT IN RECENT MONTHS THERE HAS BEEN GROWING FRICTION BETWEEN ZHAD PERSONNEL ON THE ONE HAND AND MILITARY AND POLICE (SARANDOI) ON THE OTHER.

15. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENTS: THE DRA NATIONAL AIRLINES

WHICH HAD HOPED TO BEGIN REGULAR FLIGHT SERVICE TO WEST EUROPEAN CITIES SOON (LONDON, PARIS, FRANKFURT), HAS RUN INTO DIFFICULTIES. BECAUSE THE AIRLINE NOW OPERATES UNDER THE NAME BAKHTAR RATHER THAN UNDER THE NAME UNDER WHICH IT WAS ORIGINALLY INCORPORATED (ARIANA) AND BECAUSE OF OTHER MANAGEMENT CHANGES, IT MUST RENEGOTIATE ITS INSURANCE POLICIES. THIS, COUPLED WITH KNOWN RELUCTANCE OF AT LEAST ONE OF THE WEST EUROPEAN GOVERNMENTS ON BAKHTAR'S PROJECTED ROUTE TO RECEIVE THE AIRLINES AT THIS TIME, INDICATES THAT INAUGURATION OF FLIGHTS TO THE WEST WILL BE DELAYED AT LEAST UNTIL WELL INTO 1967. EALUM

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